MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal entitled "Leather—A technology mission mode project for sustainable development" has been submitted by Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) and is being processed for consideration and approval by the Expenditure Finance Committee. The installation of new machinery for processing of imported hides and skins may form sub-activity of the mission mode project. Since no approval of the project has yet been obtained the question of recommending financial assistance for treating this aspect as a part of modernization is not envisaged at present.

Research Standards in the field of Science and Technology

617. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research in the field of Science and Technology is lagging far behind to improve the quality of life of the common man in the country and to enhance the ambit of exports beyond textiles, gems and leather goods to matching growth in engineering or chemical products;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what measures Government have so far taken or propose to take in this regard, especially to allay the fears in the post-GATT scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are a number of areas of agriculture, industry, medicine, transportation and communication in which our scientific and technological research has mede major contributions to national development. The "Green Revolution" in the area of agriculture particularly relating to cereal crops like wheat and rice, cash crops like cotton and oilseeds, are outstanding examples.The achievements in the area of cereal crops has made the country self-sufficient in food. As for industry, the achievements cover a wide span ranging from Drugs and Pharmaceuticals to Petroleum Refining, a whole range of inorganic and organic chemicals and some petrochemicals to advanced metallurgy particularly for defence applications, to a whole range of heavy electrical equipment, to numerous professional electronic equipment and systems for defence telecommunication and industrial applications. The key areas of Railways has seen numerous products designed and developed in the country go into volume commercial production. A notable example is the 5000 HP electric locomotive designed jointly by the Railways Design and Standards Organisation and BHEL. The Artificial Heart Value developed by the Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology with financing from NRDC is a world class product which international companies are keen to commercialise, but which is being commercialised indigenously. Aseptic Blood Bags developed by the same institute and commercialised by NRDC not only at home but about to be licensed abroad is yet another example. The achievements of our public sector companies and laboratories in the area of Solar Photovoltaic Energy Systems is widely recognised internationally as a major achievement of Indian R&D and manufacturing. The indigenous design, development and fabrication of world class communication-cum-meteorology- cum-TV broadcast satellites of the INSAT-2 series is another major milestone.

(c) Government is providing a range of fiscal incentives for R&D by industry and for industry to contract R&D projects to national laboratories. There are, in addition, several programmes of direct financing of R&D projects in industry and jointly with Government laboratories. These are undertaken by a number of scientific departments ranging from the DST to the DSIR, the DBT, the Department of Space, Department of Atomic Energy and Defence R&D Organisation. To respond to the challenges posed by the prospective changes in our patent regime consequent to Government's acceptance of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations under GATT, major programmes of R&D support to our pharmaceutical industry in collaboration with the concerned national laboratories are being worked on.